THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

VOL. 19, NO. 5 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1999

DNR Reports . . .
by Glenn Therres

In September, the single largest land acquisition deal ever by DNR took place. On September 10, 1999 the governor announced the acquisition of 58,000 acres of land on the Eastern Shore through a partnership with The Conservation Fund and the Mellon Foundation. On that date half of these lands became DNR property, while the other half will be conveyed to the State within one year subject to a wood supply agreement.

The 58,000 acres were formerly owned by Chesapeake Corporation, a timber products company based in Virginia. As such, most of the lands are forested primarily with loblolly pines and some mixed hardwoods. The properties are scattered over five counties on the lower Eastern Shore and vary in size from tens to thousands of contiguous acres. These lands are contiguous to 22 existing DNR properties and have frontage on the Pocomoke, Nanticoke, Blackwater, Wicomico, and Marshyhope rivers. Many support nontidal wetlands and several include tidal wetlands. Birds associated with pines and mixed forests are found on these lands, as are several rare, threatened, and endangered species.

The purpose of this acquisition is to achieve several objectives, including: (1) to protect Maryland's natural resources and environment; (2) to maintain a forest product industry on the Eastern Shore; (3) to maintain, restore, and enhance water quality and living resources of the lower Eastern Shore; and (4) to expand public access and enjoyment by making new areas available for passive recreation, including bird watching. These objectives will be achieved by designating the properties as the Chesapeake State Forest, and by managing half with resource conservation as the primary objective and the other half with sustainable forestry as the primary objective. The latter is a specified condition of the land transfer by The Conservation Fund and the Mellon Foundation, who is donating half of the land to the State.

DNR is currently developing an interim management plan for the 29,000 acres which we took ownership of in September. These are the lands to be managed primarily for resource conservation. The two primary criteria used for the selection of these properties were their proximity to existing DNR lands and the occurrence of rare, threatened, and endangered species. The interim plan will focus on immediate custodial and stewardship needs such as resource protection, access control, boundary identification, signage, and community relations.

Upon receipt of the remaining lands, DNR will develop a strategic long range plan for the

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The Latest From the American Bird Conservancy
by Mark S. Johnson and Dan Southworth

The American Bird Conservancy is a coalition of many organizations all with a common interest in the conservation of bird species throughout the world. The MOS is a member of the Policy Council, a group dedicated to this purpose. The following is a brief synopsis of the last meeting of this group held in March, 1999.

Bill McShea (Smithsonian) and Cindy Dunn (Pennsylvania Audubon) spoke to the problem of **deer overpopulation** and its affect on forest birds. According to McShea, the issue is relatively recent. In the 1930's, Virginia was reintroducing deer in many areas where they have been extirpated. By the 1988, the current hunting practices could not keep up and the state was "overpopulated." McShea's research involved fencing in forested habitat over time. Six years later, areas outside the fence looked drastically different, almost mown in comparison. Deer browsing lowers vegetation density and diversity, making nests easier to find by parasites and predators (like raccoons and Blue Jays). For some species it also lowers the amount of nesting substrates to build nests. Species hardest affected include American Redstart, Veery, Hooded Warbler, Ovenbirds, and Wood Thrush. Many alternatives were discussed, including contraception. No good remedy was apparent, however, a habitat-based hunting focus was suggested where hunting could be encouraged in the areas best for breeding birds.

James Vinch, an attorney studying environmental law, discussed the increased threat of **tower kills** to migratory birds. With the increased use of cellular phones and with high-definition television on the horizon, migratory landbirds may be affected more than ever before. These HD-TV towers may reach 2,000 feet in height, and may adversely affect nocturnal migrating species. Currently, there are no regulations that consider these environmental effects. The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) regulates the permits for construction, and rarely are Environmental Impact Statements or Environmental Assessments completed. Since towers mean

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Chapter Chatter
by Martha Waugh

Quick! Mark Your Calendar for a Special Birthday Celebration on November 6 — The Montgomery County Chapter cordially extends an invitation to all MOS members to join in celebrating the 90th birthday of MCC member, naturalist, photographer, and (still) field trip leader Luther Goldman. The Chapter will be hosting a gathering on Saturday, November 6 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. At Brookside Gardens in Wheaton to celebrate this wonderful occasion with Luther and his wife, Betty. For more information contact MCC President Linda Friedland at 301-983-2136 or e-mail her at linnet@erols.com.

Montgomery Chapter Loses a Long-Time Member and Friend — Grace Sims died on April 26 at the age of 84. She had been an active and enthusiastic member of the Montgomery Chapter for more than 30 years, and was credited with recruiting a substantial number of new members. She loved to share her knowledge and love of birds with others and for many years led bird walks along the C&O Canal for the Montgomery County adult education program and for the National Park Service. She gave innumerable lectures to garden clubs and other groups, showing bird

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If you have a change of address or are experiencing difficulties with MOS mailings, contact the Mailing List Coordinator, William Guion, 8007 Martown Road, Laurel, MD 20723, (301) 490-0444.

All other questions regarding the Maryland Ornithological Society should be referred to the Executive Secretary, Larry Fry, 1202 Ridge Rd., Pylesville, MD 21132, (410) 452-8539 or at (800) 823-0050 (410-244-0032 in the Baltimore calling area). Larry's e-mail address is:
jlfry@netfox.net

For information on advertising rates and deadlines, contact the editor.

Copy deadlines for the January/February 2000 issue are:
January-March Calendar Activities:
November 25, 1999

All Other Submissions:
December 1, 1999

MARYLAND CHRISTMAS COUNTS AND COMPILERS, 1999-2000

Saturday, December 18

Allegany County — Gwen Brewer (Frostburg), 301-689-1150.
Baltimore Harbor — Peter Webb (Baltimore), 410-486-1217.
Denton — Steve Westre (Denton), 410-479-0338.
Elkton — Joel Citron (Wilmington, DE), 302-475-8773.
Oakland — Connie Skipper (Oakland), 301-387-5227.
Triadelphia Reservoir — Rick Sussman (Ashton), 301-774-1185.
Washington, DC — John Bjerke, compiler. New participants call the Audubon Naturalist Society (Chevy Chase), 301-652-9188.

Sunday, December 19

Catoctin Mountain — Mike Welch (Frederick), 301-874-5828.
Jug Bay — Sam Droege (Hyattsville), 410-798-6759 (H) & 301-497-5840 (O).
Lower Kent County — Paul Toulson (Chestertown), 410-778-4123.
Port Tobacco — George Wilmot (Bryans Road), 301-375-8552.
St. Michaels — Frank Lawlor (Royal Oak), 410-745-6039 or Bill Novak (Easton), 410-822-2432.
Salisbury — Charles Vaughn (Salisbury), 410-742-7221.
Seneca — Steve Pretl (Potomac), 301-251-8648.

Sunday, December 26

Bowie — Fred Fallon (Bowie), 301-249-1518.
Point Lookout - Bob Boxwell (Dameron), 301-872-5998.

Monday, December 27

Crisfield — Charles Vaughn (Salisbury), 410-742-7221.
Washington County — David Weesner (Boonsboro), 301-432-7718.

Tuesday, December 28

Ocean City — Jay Sheppard (Laurel) 301-725-5559.

Wednesday, December 29

Southern Dorchester County (Blackwater) — Chan Robbins (Laurel), 301-725-1176.

Thursday, December 30

Rock Run — Russel Kovach (Joppatown), 410-679-0535

Sunday, January 2

Annapolis/Gibson Island — Sue Ricciardi (Arnold), 410-647-9513 or Hal Wierenga & Lynn Davidson (Arnold), 410-647-7439.
Fort Belvoir—Carol Ghebelian, Maryland Coordinator (Indian Head), 301-753-6754.
Patuxent River — Doug Lister, 301-994-2582 (H) or 301-342-3670 (O).
Sugarloaf Mountain — Gary Nelson (Bethesda), 301-897-8916, or Rob Gibbs (Gaithersburg), 301-253-6903.

This is the LAST *MD Yellowthroat* of the Century ! ! !

Read It !
Enjoy It ! !

DNR Reports . . .

(continued from page 1, column 1)

entire properties. The sustainable forestry agreement being developed by The Conservation Fund for half of the lands, will be incorporated into the long range plan. Key focuses of the long range plan will include wetland restoration, buffer reforestation, native plant community restoration, invasive species eradication, coastal sand ridge restoration, Delmarva bays protection and restoration, and rare, threatened and endangered species protection. Several of the properties were selected as conservation lands to serve as population reservoirs for endangered Delmarva fox squirrels. The coastal sand ridges and Delmarva bays harbor many state listed threatened or endangered plant species. Many of these areas need management attention in order to sustain the rare species at these sites.

The management concepts contained in the sustainable forestry plan will strive to achieve a balance between timber growth and yield while achieving long-term conservation objectives. The objectives of the sustainable forestry plan will include developing an innovative public/private partnership to manage natural resources on the lower Eastern Shore, demonstrate sound forestry practices, support the recovery of the Chesapeake Bay, and contribute to the establishment of corridors to ensure landscape and wildlife habitat connectivity. Through this plan the amount of timber to be cut on an annual basis will be established.

This partnership with DNR, The Conservation Fund, the Mellon Foundation, the timber industry, and others is a new approach for managing and protecting natural resources in Maryland. The intent here is to conserve our natural resources and sustain a viable renewable resource-based industry at the same time.

Chapter Chatter

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slides and displaying her collection of bird nests. She was married 64 years to Lewis Sims and was devoted to their two children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. She was not given to boasting but she could not conceal her pride in her grandson, Michael Weiss, the champion figure skater. Lola Oberman of the Montgomery Chapter reports, "We will miss Grace at chapter meetings. But if her chair is empty, many others are occupied by committed birders who are there because Grace, with her infectious enthusiasm, fostered in them a deep appreciation of birds which they, in turn, will pass on to others."

Baltimore Bird Club Reports Another Fledgling — Mr. And Mrs. Brian Rollfinke's baby, Maxwell Franklin, was born on April 12. Max has already visited Cylburn for the June 20 Summer Solstice celebration. Mom says that Max was so taken with one bird he saw there that she expects his first words may be "White-breasted Nuthatch."

Allegany County Chapter Contributes to Kids Camp — The Allegany Chapter donated $200 to the Carey Run Kids Camp organized and run by incoming club president, Dr. Chuck Hager. Dr. Hager, the recipient of one of this year's MOS-Audubon scholarships, has put his knowledge to good use in introducing children to birding and to the outdoors.

Baltimore Bird Club Displays the Web of Life — Thanks to the inspiration and guiding hand of Joy Wheeler, Cylburn is now graced with a beautiful wall mural, "The Web of Life - Cylburn's Connection," located on the second floor opposite the Baltimore Bird Club's Museum. Joy's conception illustrates cyclically many of the plants and animals found at the Cylburn Arboretum. The 9 ft. wide by 5 ft. high mural depicts Cylburn mansion as a background with a huge black walnut tree. It illustrates how living things are interconnected, showing the drama of the cycles of life and death of insects, animals, birds, and plants. James Peters acted as Joy's consultant and the Adler Display, a graphics group, produced the artwork. The project was funded by the Etta Stem Wedge Education Fund, established from a bequest by former member, Etta Wedge.

Eastern Shore Chapters Cooperate in Watching Sod Farm Birds — For much of August and September, birders enjoyed a parade of migrants that stopped in at the Central Sod Farms on John Brown Road near Centreville, Maryland. Members of the Talbot County Chapter were regularly alerted to species numbers and new arrivals through the cooperation of Danny Poet of the Caroline County Chapter, who just happens to be able to use John Brown Road on his commute to work. Danny would report his sightings to Alice Jones of the Talbot County Chapter, and then Alice would promulgate the information through a telephone/email local hotline that she runs. American Golden Plovers lingered for several weeks with as many as 15 seen on one visit. Another time, 10-15 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were sighted. Several Upland Sandpipers and Pectoral Sandpipers were also reported.

Baltimore Member Birds Papua New Guinea — Hank Kaestner, a McCormick Spice representative, visited Manus Island and sent back this postcard to the Baltimore Club's *Chip Notes* on March 4, 1999: "This card is from over the edge. Manus Island is located in the extreme southwest Pacific, but politically part of Papua New Guinea. This area was very important during World War II when the Americans built a large base here which passed ONE MILLION servicemen. Today there are only a few indications of the US presence here 55 years ago. The farmers are trying their hand at vanilla, which is why I am here. On Sunday I took a 2-1/2 hour boat ride to Tong Island which is the home of some very rare birds: the Manus Fantail and Ebony Myzomela. After Manus I visited New Ireland Island, where, with the help of information provided to me by MOS member Bruce Bluehler, I located the incredible Ribbon-tailed Drongo, an endemic."

Old Tree Photo Results in Hope for Talbot Chapter — More than two decades ago, Chapter President Wayne Bell was perusing the 1974 Dover reprinting of a 1930 book, "Aristocrats of the Trees" by Ernest H. Wilson. He found two photographs of a large European Linden (Tilia vulgaris), 85 ft. tall, trunk girth 12 ft., spread 60 ft., growing on an estate called Hope House in Easton, Maryland. It was not until 1990 that Bell met the owner of Hope House, University of Maryland geology professor Peter Stifel. Prof. Stifel generously gave Bell and other Talbot Chapter members permission to bird the property during the St. Michaels Christmas Count. When Bell produced the photos from "Aristocrats of the Trees," Dr. Stifel showed him the very tree, weather-worn now but still a magnificent specimen. It turns out that the Hope House property has several near-record Maryland trees: Loblolly Pine, Scarlet Oak, and Yew, to name three. The Talbot Chapter has since returned to this ecologically rich and varied property several times, not only at Christmas, but each year for a Sunday morning walk. In recognition of his generosity and interest, the Chapter has voted unanimously to make Dr. Stifel an Honorary Member. Hope House is not open to the public, but interested birders can

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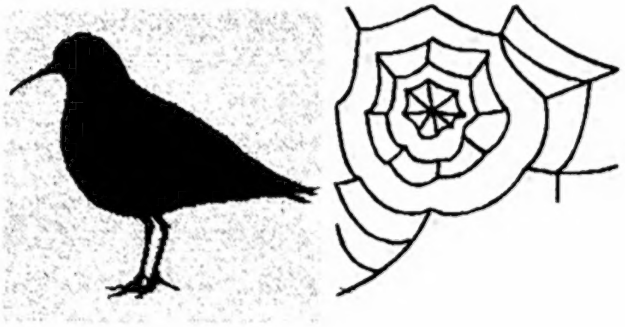
Birds on the Web



The Year of the Gull Revisited

by Fran Saunders

The birding year in Maryland stirred up a storm for 1999. Regardless of whether our prize Kelp Gull or the controversial Slaty-backed Gull are accepted by the MD/DC Records Committee, many of us spent the year astonished at our views of Thayer's, Iceland, Glaucous and California Gulls. For more than a few of us, these sightings represented life birds; for others, a view of a much sought after State bird more than made up for the many trips to the cold and wind of Conowingo Dam. Although we dare not tempt fate for yet another year, surely this coming Millenium will bring some surprises! If you want to brush up on your gulls and terns before the season begins in earnest, now is the time to visit one of several helpful web sites on the WWW.

You have several excellent resources to chose from. The sites are generally of two types. Some offer mostly photographs, including mystery pictures, along with the valued comments of some of the world's best gull watchers. Others provide identification clues, including nice compact tables that compare features of various species. This is a handy way to review before heading out into the field. As always, a few offer links to other resources that you might want to explore. Here are some of the best we have located:

The Gull Identification Site:	http://www.west.net/~dj/gulls.htm
Bob Lewis's Gull Site:	http://www.bway.net/~lewis/birds/gulls.html
Great Gull Island:	http://wso.williams.edu/~wchang/terns/Terns.html
Gulls and Terns in the Western Palearctic:	http://risc.upol.cz/~vavrik/lari/lari_wp.htm
NW Gull Identification:	http://www.ups.edu/biology/museum/gullident.html
Jim Bangma's Gull Page:	http://home.att.net/~jbangma/
Reid's Gull Site:	http://www.martinreid.com/gullinx.htm
Yukon Gullery:	http://www.yukonweb.com/community/ybc/gullery.html

Don't forget that you can also revisit the pelagic pages we reviewed a while back. Many of these have information on gulls and terns. As you surf, you will likely come across many photos of our own rarities of the year. Remember, too, that you can see the photos taken of these gulls by Jim Stasz and Marshall Iliff in our own Rarities Gallery. Check it out at:

http://www.mdbirds.org/rarebirds.html

The URLs of all sites previewed here will be available on the links page at the MOS site by the time your read this column, along with the URL for our namesake Gull. What....you didn't know there was a Saunders's Gull? <grin> I kid you not! And a very pretty thing it is, too. Go ahead, check it out.

http://www.orientalbirdclub.org/feature/saunders.html

Before we leave you to surf, the Frederick County Chapter is the latest MOS group to post its very own web site. Take a few moments to visit them at:

http://members.tripod.com/cricketsong/fredcomos.htm

This is our 15th column and we've covered a lot ground, but if there's a special topic you would like to see us research for our next field trip, please let me know (saunderf@ari.net).

The Year 2000 Conference Pin Design Contest

by John Malcolm

The Conference Committee invites you to enter the Year 2000 Pin Design Contest. The rules are:

- The bird featured must be appropriate for the conference site, Washington County (i.e., no gannets).
- The design shall include the phrases "MOS" and "2000."
- Submissions shall be rendered in full color.
- Artists may not use others' work, or copyrighted material.
- Submissions shall not be framed or matted.
- Artists may submit up to five designs for any one contest.
- Entrants must be members of MOS.
- On the back of each design the artist shall identify the species drawn, and put their name, phone number, and chapter affiliation.
- The artist's name should not appear on the front of the entry.
- The deadline for entries is December 31, 1999.

Entries should be sent to: John Malcolm
10205 Kindly Court
Montgomery Village, MD 20886

GUIDELINES

- Designs should be in a "final version," with the bird clearly depicted. Don't send a rough sketch and expect the pin company to finish it for you.
- Simple, uncluttered, designs are best. The finished pin will be less than two inches; small details and complicated backgrounds don't reduce well. Bold, simple designs are best.
- The manufacturer has a limited color palette; artists should consider birds with "basic" colors. (Note the color of the "olive" back of the yellowthroat on the 1991 pin.)
- Avoid shading or small patches of color. The pins are cloisonné, and each color change is bordered by a brass line. (The background in the original design for 1994 was shaded from dark green to light green; the pin company could only produce one shade.)
- Submissions should be on sturdy, white, unlined paper or Bristol, in any medium, and at least five inches across (but not larger than 8 X 10 inches).
- The shape of the pin doesn't matter; the manufacturer can produce any shape we want.
- Artists need not depict the entire bird (note the 1988 shrike).
- The contest will be judged by an impartial jury of birders and artists. No entrant can be a judge.
- Judges consider artistic merit, suitability of the species, and the expected attractiveness of the resultant pin.
- All references to the artist will be covered before judging.
- The jury's decision is final.
- The winner may be asked to make minor changes to accommodate the manufacturing process.
- Entries will be returned to the artists, except for the winning design, which becomes the property of MOS. MOS may use the winning design to promote the conference.
- By entering the contest the artists agree that if their design wins it becomes the property of MOS, The jury's decision is final.
- Color renditions of past contest winners can be seen at the MOS State Web Page: http://www.mdbirds.org

Call John Malcolm with any questions, at (301) 977-5788.

Chapter Chatter

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contact one of the Chapter officers for information about the next planned trip to this beautiful treasure on the Eastern Shore.

Baltimore Bird Club Stars on the Nickelodeon TV Channel — On April 10, the Baltimore Bird Club joined other groups in "The Big Help," a project of the Nickelodeon TV Channel to salute and entertain children and adult leaders from recreation centers all over Baltimore City. On the shores of Middle Branch Park, BBC joined the Maryland Entomological Society, Carrie Murray Outdoor Education Center, the Baltimore City Forestry Board, and the Big Help Nickelodeon characters including dancing Rug Rats and magicians. The whole show was televised on Channel 28, April 29 at 7:330 p.m. BBC displayed a "team of Baltimore Orioles," nine stuffed birds. Most of the visitors had never seen a feathered Baltimore Oriole before. Each one received a 3-Oriole bird picture-info card stamped with BBC's name and telephone number to take home to learn more. Jon Boone of the Anne Arundel Chapter contributed 100 bluebird cards, his beautiful business card.

Talbot Club Enjoys Scrumptious Breakfasts and Spirited Recaps on Sunday Morning Bird Walks! — The Talbot County Club finishes its Sunday Morning Bird Walks with breakfast in someone's home when the walks are held near Easton or St. Michaels. Members depart from the meeting point around 7:00 a.m. and bird until about 9:30 a.m. The breakfast host plans for guests at about 10:00 a.m. (The host is clued in about the numbers by car phone from the initial meeting point.) According to Les Roslund, although simple preparations are encouraged, "Simply scrumptious breakfasts are what usually occur." The hosts, club members, are sometimes those who find active birding too tiring but love keeping in touch with their birding friends. The breakfast arranger, Jean Crump, has coordinated these mornings for many years, and does a great job of it. She tries to avoid calling on any family to host more often than once every two years. The club has found that the breakfast walks are very effective as a membership recruiting tool. The breakfast group number ranges from 12 to 24 and interactions are informal, except for the final recap of what birds were seen. Birders are asked to write down an estimate of total number of species on a piece of paper that is passed around. No duplication of guesses is allowed. The leader leads the tally and at least two birds are required to have seen or heard a species for an official count. The recaps are sometimes quite spirited, always informative and fun. The person with the correct guess gets a prize: a jar of homemade jelly, provided by member Nancy Burns.

Power Bar Awards to Montgomery Field Trip Leaders 1998-1999 — Linda Friedland, current president of the Montgomery Chapter, began a tradition in 1996 when, as the field trip chair, she thought it would be fun to present humorous awards of actual Power Bars to some of the trip leaders. Don Messersmith was the earliest recipient, winning an award for "Best Performance in a Sustained Downpour;" in 1997, Bill Dobbins got the "Urban Birder" award and Howard Youth the "Frozen Toes and Soggy Socks" award. This years' field trip chair Mike Bowen continued the tradition by honoring Don Messersmith with the "Civilized Birding Award No. 1" (for arranging warm shelter and hot cocoa on a particularly cold trip to Sandy Point State Park and Rich Bray with the "Civilized Birding Award No. 2 " for urging lagging birders with the promise of a chocolate sundae at MacDonalds in Poolesville. Rich also won this year's "Most Dogs Barking at the Same Time" award, with at least seven angry animals vocalizing and completely disrupting birding along a notably bucolic stretch of country back road. George Jett took home "The Sheer Damn Birding Efficiency Award." George and Dick Homan moved around Charles County at warp speed on March 20, mopping up 81 species and recording the first 1999 Northern Rough-winged Swallows in the state. Gary Nelson won the coveted "Most Miles for Least Birds Award." Gary was faced with ghastly winter weather and no way to communicate cancellation of an owling trip to Frederick County. He drove all the way up icy I-270 to the meeting place to find neither participants nor birds. Gemma Radko walked off with the "Rookie of the Year Award" for arguing forcefully that the Chapter should offer field trips expressly for beginners and leading the first beginners field trip herself.

Hummingbirds Need Sustenance — Paul O'Brien of the Montgomery Chapter advises leaving hummingbird feeders up until they freeze. Adult male ruby-throats leave at the end of the first week in September. The immature males leave about a week later and the females even after that. Beyond September, you could have vagrant Selasphorus hummingbirds dropping by. Sam Pancake of Takoma Park has had a female Rufous at his feeders three different years around the first of November. Mary Ann Berberich also had a probable female Rufous at her feeder in Bethesda from November 17-21, 1996. There was even another female Ruby-throat spending a week at a Cecil County feeder in mid-December of 1994. Paul keeps his feeders up all year and reports that they don't crack if they are only half full.

Jug Bay Members Top 600 — While attending the American Birding Association Convention in Tucson in July, Jane Kostenko and her husband Tyler Bell each made milestones of seeing their 600th ABA area and lower 48 birds. Tyler saw a Crissal Trasher in Madera Canyon for the ABA area and a Northern Goshawk family in Pinery Canyon for lower 48 #600. Jane had a Grace's Warbler at Rustler Park in the Chiricahua Mountains for ABA area and a Band-tailed Pigeon for lower 48 #600. Band-tailed Pigeon had been a nemesis bird but they saw many of them on this trip to dispel the myth that there really was no such critter!

MOS Research Grants

By Dave Brinker

The Maryland Ornithological Society announces the availability of research grants for ornithological research to be conducted in the state of Maryland. Grants are generally limited to amounts less than $2,000. If the research is to be done at or near one of the MOS sanctuaries, the society may be able to provide accommodations at a nominal cost. Proposals are reviewed twice annually with deadlines of 1 December and 1 June with award notification in approximately eight weeks. For application guidelines and further information write: David F. Brinker, MOS Research Committee, 115 North Beechwood Ave., Catonsville, MD 21228.

Call For Papers—MOS Annual Conference

by Dave Brinker

The MOS Research Committee sponsors oral presentations at our annual conferences. The next conference is scheduled for 19-21 May 2000 in Hagerstown, Washington County. If you would like to share the results of any research on the natural history of Maryland birdlife, please contact Dave Brinker by e-mail at dbrinker@bellatlantic.net, or by phone at (410) 744-3246, or by 15 April 2000, send an abstract to: David F. Brinker, MOS Research Committee, 1200 Frederick Rd., Catonsville, MD 21228.

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(800) 823-0050 - voicemail

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Library:	Joy Wheeler	531 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21204	(410) 825-1204
Long-range planning:	Marcia Watson-Whitmyre	24 Lochcarron Dr., Elkton, MD 21921	(410) 398-0125
MD/DC Records:	Phil Davis	2549 Vale Ct., Davidsonville, MD 21035	(301) 261-0184
Publications:			
MD Birdlife	Chandler S. Robbins	Migratory Bird Research, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD 20811	(301) 498-0281
Season Reports:	Dan & Linda Southworth	9763 Early Spring Way, Columbia, MD 21046	(301) 490-5648
MD Yellowthroat:	Norm Saunders	1261 Cavendish Dr., Colesville, MD 20905	(202) 606-5701 -day (301) 989-9035 -eve
Calendar:	Les Eastman	4034 Wilkinson Rd., Havre de Grace, MD 21078	(410) 436-3490 -day (410) 734-6969 -eve
State MOS Website	Fran Saunders	1261 Cavendish Dr., Colesville, MD 20905	(301) 989-9035
Publicity:	Fran Saunders	1261 Cavendish Dr., Colesville, MD 20905	(301) 989-9035
Research:	David F. Brinker	1200 Frederick Rd., Catonsville, MD 21228	(410) 744-3246
Sanctuary:	Dorothy Mumford	1900 Generals Hwy, Annapolis, MD 21401	(410) 849-8336
Scholarships:	Jean Fry	1202 Ridge Rd., Pylesville, MD 21132	(410) 452-8539
Seasonal Counts	Bob Ringler	6272 Pinyon Pine Ct., Eldersburg, MD 21784	(410) 549-6031
May Count Subcomm.:	Wanda Cole	29731 Apple Drive, Cordova, MD 21625	(410) 822-8311
Mid-Winter Subcomm.:	Paul Jung	12606 Memory Lane, Bowie, MD 20715-1608	
Fall Subcomm.:	Chuck Stirrat	13318 Hunt Ridge, Ellicott City, MD 21042	(410) 531-2417
		Other Committees and Projects	
Atlas:	Jane Farrell Coskren	6324 Sandchain Rd., Columbia, MD 21045	(410) 381-7344
Cavity-Nesting:	Mark Johnson	3204 Bryson Ct., Baldwin, MD 21013	(410) 692-5978
County Lists:	Phil Davis	2549 Vale Ct., Davidsonville, MD 21035	(301) 261-0184
Mailing list:	William Guion	8007 Martown Rd., Laurel, MD 20723	(301) 490-0444
Nominations:	David Harvey	302 Chelsea Ct., Sykesville, MD 21784	(410) 795-3117
Env. Fund Liaison:	Carol Jelich	682 Black Forest Rd., Annapolis, MD 21401	(410) 757-8158
		Chapter Presidents	
Allegany:	Charles Hager	124 Pine St., Frostburg, MD 21532	(301) 689-5344
Anne Arundel:	Larry Zoller	278 Laguna Circle, Severna park, MD 21146	(410) 647-9354
Baltimore:	Terrence Ross	4128 Roland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21211	(410) 467-8137
Caroline:	Danny Poet	P.O. Box 223, Queenstown, MD 21658	(410) 827-8651
Carroll:	Amy Hoffman	7263 Norris Ave., Sykesville, MD 21784	(410) 549-3598
Cecil:	Leslie Fisher	6 Woodview Ln., North East, MD 21901	(410) 658-2427
Frederick:	Wilbur Hershberger	9093 Fox Ridge Dr., Union Bridge, MD 21791	(301) 898-9088
Harford:	Debbie Delevan	3504 Advocate Hill Dr., Jarettsville, MD 21084	(410) 692-9305
Howard:	Mike Kerwin	10257 Bristol Channel, Ellicott City, MD 21042	(410) 461-2408
Jug Bay:	Dale Johnson	4932 Chestnut St., Shadyside, MD 20772	(410) 867-7743
Kent:	Gail Regester	103 Cannon St., Chestertown, MD 21620	(410) 778-9367
Montgomery:	Linda Friedland	8611 Victory Lane, Potomac, MD 20854	(301) 530-2136
Patuxent:	Tom Loomis	11502 Allview Dr., Beltsville, MD 20705	(301) 937-2257
Talbot:	Wayne Bell	29590 Schwaninger Rd., Easton, MD 21601	(410) 820-6002
Tri-County:	Sam Dyke	P.O. Box 1212, Salisbury, MD 21802	(410) 742-5497
Washington:	David Weesner	6618 Zittlestown Rd., Middletown, MD 21769-6203	(301) 432-7718

ed. note: There were some errors and some Vacancies in the Officer Listing as it appeared in the September/November issue of MD Yellowthroat. To the best of our knowledge, this list is now correct and complete.

The MOS Dateline
November 1999 through October 2000

November

15	Board Meeting Agenda Items Due To Norm Saunders
25	Deadline for Jan/Feb/Mar Meeting/Field Trip Schedule Submission to Les Eastman

December

1	Deadline for Jan/Feb *Yellowthroat* Submissions to Norm Saunders
1	MOS Grant Applications Due to David Brinker
11	State Board Meeting, Frederick
15	Deadline to submit Fall (August to November) bird sightings to Dan Southworth and to Jim Stasz
18	Christmas Count Season Begins
31	Conference Pin Contest Entries Due to John Malcolm

January

1	Christmas Count Season Ends
15	Mid-Winter Count Season Begins
25	Deadline for Mar/Apr/May Meeting/Field Trip Schedule Submission to Les Eastman
31	Scholarship Applications Due to Jean Fry

February

1	Deadline for Mar/Apr *Yellowthroat* Submissions to Norm Saunders
1	State MOS Budget Submissions Due to Paul Zucker
15	Board Meeting Agenda Items Due To Norm Saunders
15	Mid-Winter Count Season Ends
23	MD/DC Records Committee Annual Meeting

March

11	State Board Meeting, Easton
15	Deadline to submit Winter (December to February) bird sightings to Dan Southworth and to Jim Stasz
25	Deadline for May/Jun/Jul/Aug Meeting/Field Trip Schedule Submission to Les Eastman
TBA	Irish Grove Spring Work Weekend

April

1	Deadline for May/Jun *Yellowthroat* Submissions to Norm Saunders
TBA	Carey Run Spring Work Weekend

May

13	May Count
13	1999 World Series of Birding (Support your Yellowthroats!)
15	Board Meeting Agenda Items Due To Norm Saunders
19-21	Annual MOS Conference, Hagerstown
20	Chapter & Committee Annual Reports due to MOS President

June

1	MOS Grant Applications Due to David Brinker
10	State Board Meeting, Location TBA
15	Deadline to submit Spring (March to May) bird sightings to Dan Southworth and to Jim Stasz

July

25	Deadline for Sept/Oct/Nov Meeting/Field Trip Schedule Submission to Les Eastman

August

1	Deadline for Sept/Oct *Yellowthroat* Submissions to Norm Saunders
15	Board Meeting Agenda Items Due To Karen Morley
15	Deadline to submit Summer (June & July) bird sightings to Dan Southworth and to Jim Stasz

September

1	Membership year commences—renew now!
25	Deadline for Nov/Dec/Jan Meeting/Field Trip Schedule Submission to Les Eastman
TBA	State Board meeting, location TBA

October

1	Deadline for Nov/Dec *Yellowthroat* Submissions to Norm Saunders
TBA	Irish Grove Fall Work Weekend

Giving as Part of the Combined Federal Campaign?

Remember the
Maryland Ornithological Society (#6619)

1999 MARYLAND/DC LOCALITY LIST COMPILATION

Each year, the MOS compiles and publishes totals from member's state and local bird lists. Forms for submitting 1999 locality lists are provided in this issue of the ***Maryland Yellowthroat***. You are invited to submit your totals for any of the following list categories:

STATE/COUNTY CUMULATIVE LISTS: This category is for your "lifetime" species totals identified anywhere in the state of Maryland, DC, or within any of the 23 Maryland counties. You may submit totals for any of these localities. Due to space limitations, please only submit totals which exceed 50% of the "maximum" number for each locality. The form contains the latest maximums and the 50% threshold for each locality.

STATE/COUNTY 1999 ANNUAL LISTS: This category is for total species identified only in 1999 for the same localities as above. These totals may be reported at any threshold.

"YARD" LIST: This category is for cumulative yard list totals, and 1999 totals. You may count any species you have identified while in your "yard" (that is, your property contiguous to your home). "Flyovers" and other birds identified from your yard (even if they were not in your yard) also count. Additional information is requested on your "yard".

"ALL-COUNTY" LIST: This category is for counting the number of species you have identified in each of the 23 Maryland counties. For example, if you have identified a Northern Mockingbird, an American Crow, a Downy Woodpecker and a Red-tailed Hawk in each of the 23 Maryland counties, your list total would be "4".

"ALL-TIME HIGH" ANNUAL LISTS: This category is used to track all-time high annual lists from the current and previous years. Annual prior year totals for the various reporting localities may be submitted. For Maryland, submitted totals should equal or exceed 286 (70% of the "maximum possible" number). For individual counties, totals submitted from previous years should exceed either 50% of the "maximum possible" or exceed one of the top totals previously published for that county. See the May/June 1999 issue of the ***Maryland Yellowthroat*** for previously published totals.

Members' totals that have not been updated within the previous five years will be dropped from the database.

Questions ??? Contact Phil Davis at PDavis@ix.netcom.com or (301) 261-0184.

Please return the form BEFORE January 20, 2000 to:

Phil Davis
2549 Vale Court
Davidsonville, MD 21035

We hope that all who have participated will do so again, and that others will join in, especially those from localities which are currently less than well represented. If you have any comments, thoughts or anecdotes, please include them. Specifics on your yard habitat and size will also be of interest if your yard list total is especially high. If you have any other categories of Maryland bird lists that are appropriate (for example, all-time or 1999 state/county "Big Day" totals), send them in. We'd like to hear from you.

MOS 1999 MD/DC LOCALITY LIST REPORTING FORM

Report List Totals as of 12/31/1999

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name:
Address:
City: County:
State: Zip: Email:
Phones: (day): ( ) (evening): ( )

II. STATE/COUNTY LIFE AND 1999 LISTS

Locality List	Max/50%	Life	1999	Locality List	Max/50%	Life	1999
Maryland State	415/208			District of Columbia	312/156		
MD Yard List*	-			DC Yard List*	-		
Allegany County	284/142			Howard County	289/145		
Anne Arundel County	332/166			Kent County	300/150		
Baltimore City/County	332/166			Montgomery County	309/155		
Calvert County	302/151			Prince George's County	318/159		
Caroline County	288/144			Queen Anne's County	298/149		
Carroll County	277/139			St. Mary's County	309/155		
Cecil County	292/146			Somerset County	302/151		
Charles County	280/140			Talbot County	311/156		
Dorchester County	315/158			Washington County	260/130		
Frederick County	287/144			Wicomico County	288/144		
Garrett County	275/138			Worcester County	373/187		
Harford County	296/148			All-County List	226/---		

* **Yard List Information**:
County: _____
Location: Home: _____ Work: _____ Other? (specify): _____
Brief Description: (size, habitat, etc):

III. ANNUAL ALL-TIME HIGH LISTS (for previous years)

Locality List	Year	#	Locality List	Year	#

(Please use one form per person)

Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting

MEETING LOCATION: Kent County Library, Chestertown
MEETING DATE: June 12, 1999
MEETING START: 10:05 a.m.
MEETING ADJOURNED: 12:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Officers & Committees:
Norm Saunders, President
Karen Morley, Vice-President
Kathy Neugebauer, Secretary
Jeff Metter, Treasurer
Larry Fry, Executive Secretary
Paul Zucker, Budget Committee Chair
Maud Banks, Education Committee Chair
Fran Saunders, Long Range Planning Committee Chair
David Harvey, Nominations Committee Chair
Dotty Mumford, Sanctuary Committee Chair
Lou DeMouy, Conference Chair
Carol Jelich, Environmental Fund Liaison
Jean Fry, Scholarship Chair
Phil Davis, Records Committee Chair, County Lists
Mike Callahan, Publicity Committee Chair

Chapters:
Allegany – no representatives
Anne Arundel – Lawrence Zoller
Baltimore – Terry Ross
Caroline – Danny Poet
Carroll – Maureen Harvey, Amy Hoffman
Cecil – Bill Crook, Marcia Watson-Whitmyre
Frederick – Doug Parker, Nancy Parker
Harford – Thomas Congersky
Howard – Mary-Jo Betts, Michael Kerwin, Elayne Metter, Kurt Schwarz
Jug Bay – Dale Johnson, Gary Flenner
Kent – Gail Regester, Patricia Wilson
Montgomery – Lydia Schindler, Sam Freiberg, Linda Friedland, Janet Millenson, Rick Sussman
Patuxent – no representatives
Talbot – Bill Novak
Tri-County – no representatives
Washington – no representatives

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Norm Saunders, who thanked Kent County for their hospitality.

2. **March Board Meeting Minutes** – The March minutes were reviewed. A note was made to include Sam Freiberg as an attendee. The revised minutes were approved by the Board.

3. **Briefing by TWW Leadership on Pending OCS Legislation (Edie Thompson, DNR & Tom Franklin, Wildlife Society** – As background – a number of Bills have currently been brought up before Congress: HR 701, The Conservation and Reinvestment Act, and HR 798, the Resources 2000 Act. These bills are new sources of funding for wildlife, but these monies would come from off-shore drilling fees and not from taxes. The MD TWW steering committee made a decision to drop work on TWW, since they felt that the Congress was currently unresponsive to the idea of new taxation programs. Instead, they began to support the newly proposed Offshore Continental Shelf proposals for wildlife funding, using the list of TWW Coalition members as supporters of these new proposals. Norm felt that it was improper to name the MOS as a supporter of these new bills when the Board had never had an opportunity to review them and state an opinion. For that reason, Norm pulled MOS from the TWW. Edie and Tom had agreed to attend the Board Meeting to help explain and educate the Board on these recent changes to TWW in the hopes that MOS would reconsider it's decision to support them.

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American Bird Conservancy

(continued from page 1, column2)

big money, it will be hard for environmentalists to have any meaningful influence.

Thomas Adams of the National Audubon Society spoke of the efforts to restore the original water flow patterns to the **Florida Everglades**. He gave an excellent presentation, noting that originally the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) diverted the water flow pattern to vent excess water to the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Currently, the COE pumps 1.3 trillion gallons out to tide each year. This water could be diverted to the Everglades by restoring the original river patterns. Moreover, with the increasing population in South Florida, way beyond the original expectations, more fresh water is needed. Other problems include the Everglades receiving water inconsistent with the seasons, and thus wading bird numbers are down 90%. Increasing agriculture south of Lake Okechobee has increased and altered the land so that to restore the Everglades to their original condition would not be entirely possible. However, major gains are being made by restoring 100 miles of the original river patterns and by removing the canals that were meant to vent water away from the Everglades. Concerns regarding whether there actually is enough water or not remain to be resolved.

Virginia is reported to have left a large loophole in their **Horseshoe Crab** management plan, allowing unlimited take outside a 3-mile limit. David Grossman of the National Audubon Society reported that this has caused a 26-fold increase in the horseshoe crabs taken. Pressure has been suggested to request that Virginia keep the limit at the 1997 levels. This issue may have to go to the National Marine Fisheries Service for resolution.

There was more news concerning the **Cats Indoors** campaign. Linda Winter of the ABC mentioned that she has had many requests from concerned people wondering what they could do about their neighbor's cat coming to their property killing birds. A fact sheet is being prepared that will soon be on the ABCs web site. It was mentioned that many local Humane Societies will often loan Hav-a-Heart traps to help capture vagrant cats. It was also reported that cats are having a large impact on bird populations in some areas. The California Quail numbers are down to just a couple of pairs; chicks were reported as being picked off by cats. Twice as many quail are found in parks without cats. A study in San Diego Canyon showed that cats bring home 15 birds/year – 500 for the entire group of cats. People who feed the cats in these areas are contributing to the problem and also adversely affecting the cats though disease transmission.

These were some of the main issues discussed at the last meeting in Washington D.C. Due to the coordinated effort of the many organizations, of which MOS is a part, the ABC is having a great influence. If there are any questions or concerns regarding these or other issues please contact Mark or Dan.

June Board Meeting

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Tom Franklin began by reviewing what these various bills represented, and how it was felt that the wildlife portion of these bills could bring to Maryland a sizeable amount of monies for wildlife conservation and nature programs. Currently the DNR spends approximately 6-7 million dollars on wildlife conservation; while also providing opportunities for nature programs to the citizens of Maryland. These new bills offer the opportunity of potentially bringing an additional $32 million/year in monies for conservation purposes.

The DNR and TWW agreed to work with the Department of Natural Resources on how this money would be spent. There were two proposals: 1) By-partisan Bill, HR 701 which exists in both the House and Senate; and 2) HR 798 which is similar to 1), but has a different approach on how money will be allocated. Both bills have excellent wildlife sections with substantial new funding potential for wildlife.

The initial premise of TWW evolved around the concept of an excise tax proposal. It is generally felt that this type of funding has great potential as a long-term strategic approach for funding wildlife – however the current trends in Congress did not support this idea. Due to this, the strategy behind and ultimate support of these Bills lead to the concept of utilizing revenue from oil and gas royalties (over the next 10-15 years) as a means of funding for wildlife. The concept of an excise tax is not dead, but under the current legislature, it is an impassable issue.

Edie Thompson spent additional time reviewing the Coalition activities and explaining in detail the Bills in question. There are still a number of issues thru Congress on how ultimately these funds will be spent. Monies will probably be "split" between the states based on population, coastal "real estate," and proximity of states to coastal oil and gas resources. There is also currently debate on how restrictive the conditions will be in utilizing these monies.

The goal of DNR is to get feedback from the citizens of Maryland oh how best to spend these funds. It was felt that the greatest impact that MOS can have in this is for MOS and it's members to be aware of what these Bills represent and contacting their representatives in Congress to offer their support for these Bills.

In addition, as part of the minutes, is attached a summary from TWW on the Congressional Funding Bills currently under consideration. Additional information can be found on the internet at www.teaming.com. To email any representative in Senate, one can also go to www.senate.gov/senator/membmail.html, or for House representatives at www.house.gov/writerep. Copies of this information are also attached and are part of the minutes.

A Motion was made for MOS to rejoin the TWW Coalition. This was SECONDED, and APPROVED by the Board.

It is also NOTED that there was NOT unanimous agreement to this MOTION, as expressed by the Montgomery County Director, Rick Sussman. Norm did however remind the Board that the decision passed was made for MOS, and that the ***individual Chapters have to make their own decisions whether to belong or rejoin the Coalition.***

4. **Vacancy Report, Missing Annual Reports, New Officers**

Norm asked each of the Chapters to look among their members for folks willing to help out with the task of running the organization. He then reported on the following vacancies:

- **Conference Committee** – vacant after 1999 Annual Conference
- **Investment Committee** – vacant now.
- **Recurring Counts Committee** – vacant now (formerly May Count).
- **Conservation Notification Group** – new positions. MOS is looking for two representatives from each Chapter, along with a State Coordinator, to develop and maintain a Rapid Notification Network. These individuals need to have e-mail to keep abreast of rapidly changing legislative issues for the state of Maryland, with the ability to disseminate this information quickly to each Chapter and its members.

Norm asked that the representatives take this information back to their individual Chapters, to help us find people interested in volunteering for these positions.

Annual Reports were due at the Annual Meeting. To date, Norm has received reports from: Allegheny, Anne Arundel, Carol, Cecil, and Washington Counties. Committee Reports received include Long-Range Planning, MD/DC Records, Publicity, Research, Scholarship, and Sanctuary. Please e-mail or send to Norm all remaining reports. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated on this.

5. **2000 Conference, Preliminary Report on 1999 Outcome – Lou DeMouy**

Results of the Satisfaction Survey were presented (see attachment). In summary, the two best ratings were 1) Location, and 2) Field Trips. Lou thanked Peter Hanan from the Anne Arundel Chapter for his help on organizing these trips.

The overall satisfaction score for the Conference was 4.2 (out of 5). Lou offered some insight on ways that we could improve future conferences (see attachment) that included:

- Continued emphasis on Field Trips.
- Additional options for meal plans
- Support and feedback from Artists
- Increase emphasis and mailing exposure for promotional Brochure announcing the upcoming Conference. To review other options as individual mailings and more exposure in *Maryland Yellowthroat*.
- Continued emphasis on cost savings to members by providing additional options for meal plans, housing and other registration options.
- Use of Committee Chair Reports to facilitate exposure of various committee activities for members attending the Conference.
- Review ways to streamline the business meeting.
- Review comments in regards to Research Paper Presentations and how to increase participation in these areas.
- Review future Convention sites and site-specific logistics for meal plans, staffing issues.

In addition, Lou announced the following statistics about the meeting:

- Attendance – 244 registrants.
- Profit will be realized however final costs are still being tallied. A report is forthcoming, however, not including sales of promotional items as T-Shirts, and the silent auction, income for the meeting was over $4000.00.
- Silent Auction and Raffle income exceeded $1868.00. These proceeds were presented to the SMAS (Southern Maryland Audubon Society) by Norm to help support research underway along the Patuxent River for the development of shrub habitat for Neotropical Migratory Birds. SMAS was very

June Board Meeting

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appreciative of the monies presented by MOS.

Other suggestions brought up by Board included:

- Modifying name badges to give MOS more exposure and promote our Organization to outside businesses and individuals.

Discussion then involved possible Conference sites for the year 2000. Lou presented some possible sites, including Hagerstown, Salisbury, Chestertown, and Shepardstown W. Va. There was much discussion on the merits and disadvantages of each of these sites, including favorable Conference dates, taking into consideration the weather and birding conditions.

Discussion on having the Conference in West Virginia was reviewed. Currently MOS bylaws do not permit the Annual Meeting to be held outside of the State of Maryland. Norm felt strongly that MOS is a State organization, and that we probably need to make a real effort to keep the expenditures of our organization in Maryland. MOS should keep the meeting in Maryland to help promote the state resources.

After much discussion, the Board gave Lou the go-ahead to make a decision on a site based on availability of accommodations.

Primary Site, Hagerstown – 3rd weekend in May.
Seconday Site, Hagerstown – 1st weekend in May.
Tertiary Site, Salisbury – last weekend in July

A Motion was made to approve these sites for Year 2000 Meeting. This was SECONDED, and APPROVED by the Board.

6. **1999 WSB Team, Preliminary Report on Finances – Norm Saunders.**

Norm announced that 60% of the pledges have been received. If all are received, MOS looks at net proceeds of $1800.00. This is an increase of $200.00 over last year. Our overall profit will probably be lower due to the fact that we had higher expenses this year than last (Three people on the team). Report will be forthcoming based on arrival of pledges.

7. **Sanctuary Building Inspection Issues – Norm Saunders.**

Norm was approached at the end of the March Board Meeting by a number of individuals who were still concerned in regards to the decision made by the Board to allow Mike Knott, who has done regular maintenance of the sanctuary buildings at Carey Run and Irish Grove, to inspect these properties. It was felt that an independent inspection would be more advantageous. Although this had been **APPROVED** by the Board, Norm felt that we should revisit this issue.

Dottie Mumford raised some concerns with this, especially since she had already contacted Mike Knott and he had agreed to do the inspections at a price of $600.00 for both sites. These inspections would be the same as those performed for property when it is professionally sold through a real estate company.

After discussion, it was agreed that the motion reached at the March Board Meeting would stand as noted, and that Mike would do the inspections.

In addition, Dottie presented her Sanctuary Report:

- There would be no deer hunting to help clear out the populations at Carey Run. This was based on discussion with local officials on how effective such hunting would be since it was felt that this would have little impact on the deer population.
- Sanctuary Guide – Dottie needs some help in obtaining topographical maps of Irish Grove and Cary Run that show boundaries and vegetation lines. There was some thought on this information being available through Soil Conservation Services, or even through commercial mapping software. Dottie asked for people to meet with her after the meeting to review these possible sources for maps.
- Irish Grove Workday – due to lack of participation at this in recent years, it was suggested that the date of the workday be changed.. It was decided to change this date to the weekend of October 23-24 of this year. Please attend!

8. **Developments at the EFM – Carol Jelich**

In review, Carol outlined what the Environmental Fund for Maryland (EFM) was – a group of 22 environmental groups, including MOS. EFM had an Executive Directory who was involved with the United Way Campaign, the Federal Campaign, and others in the workplace to allow employees a way of designating methods to donating monies to charitable organizations either thru payroll deductions or one-time donations.

MOS was part of this group, and had, in 1997 received over $2900 from EFM, after they received their 20% "cut" taken for administrative fees.

The problems facing EFM this year evolves around a possible deficit due to rising administrative costs. To help offset this, EFM wants members (as Carol) to sign an agreement that they would actively work to initiate a workplace campaign to help promote EFM thru payroll deductions. Currently there are two ways to contribute: 1) employee directly designates MOS, and 2) employee designates EFM, where all the money (approximately 50%) is split between all the groups participating.

In addition, EFM has proposed that all undesignated monies collected (thru #2 above) NOT be distributed, and be used to offset the deficit anticipated in administrative costs. These monies would allow EFM to hire additional staff to manage these campaigns. Carol had agreed to these provisions, but needed to review this information with the Board. This proposal for the use of undesignated monies would be reviewed in two years to determine if this administrative fee structure should continue.

A number of people voiced their opinion on how this money was to be spent for administrative purposes and how appropriate these allocations were, since it probably would not fit into the Federal Regulation on how such fees are determined.

Norm felt that EFM provided a way for people to easily make a donation to MOS if they so wished and felt that MOS needed to educate the membership to make their donations directly to the individual organizations rather than to the EFM blanket organization so they would be assured their donations reached the organizations the donors wanted to reach. The way the new proposal stands, if an individual designates MOS, MOS will see 80% of the funds (EFM collects a 20% administrative fee), if that individual designates EFM, MOS would get none of this money back since 100% of it would go to EFM.

There were also no statistics that showed how this breakdown of monies (between MOS designee and EFM designee) and

June Board Meeting

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how this affected the final amount contributed to MOS.

Norm requested that Carol review EFM's Financial Statement from last year and present a report at the next Board Meeting that tried to answer the following questions:

1. What percentage of dollars contributed to EFM are going toward expenses?
2. Will all undesignated monies go strictly to Administrative costs?

In addition, Norm requested from Jeff Metter that he review the MOS Financial Statements and report at the next Board Meeting what our costs have been for joining EFM have been; along with information on income provided from EFM.

At the August Meeting we would review these reports to see if we should pursue a relationship with EFM and/or express our concerns about their new administrative proposals.

9. A MOS Policy Statement on Hunting Issues – Norm Saunders

Norm indicated that the Sunday Hunting Bill presented to the Maryland Legislature was PASSED in the House, but DEFEATED in the Senate. He was confident that this issue would be raised again, and that MOS needed a policy statement on this issue in order to address these issues when needed.

Norm received a number of comments both pro and con from members and others on the issues of hunting. Based on these comments, Norm will attempt to present a Proposed Policy Statement together for review and comments by the August Board Meeting.

10. Old Business

Paul Zucker indicated that clarification was needed on the Budget Items approved at the last Board Meeting in regards to monies allocated from the WSB to fund additional scholarships. This wording should be modified to:

"This years budget includes a one time allocation of $800.00 for an additional scholarship, and that this money came from this years World Series of Birding (WSB) profits (instead of last years)."

A Motion was made to approve these changes to the budget. This was SECONDED, and APPROVED by the Board.

Karen Morley reported on promotional items for sale through MOS and noted that the survey presented to members at the Annual Meeting indicated great support for such products. Overwhelmingly, people were interested in items with the MOS logo, hats, mugs, T-shirts, binocular straps, and field guide bags. The feeling of the committee was that MOS at the state level would develop items for sale and allow individual Chapters the ability to purchase these items at cost and sell them at either cost or at a reasonable mark-up. For items at the Chapter level, MOS would coordinate any interest in contacting vendors for these individual chapters.

11. New Business

Norm announced that the Records Committee has developed an "Outreach Program." This program is meant to be presented at Chapter Meetings explaining how the MD/DC Record Committee operates. A handout of how the program works and who to contact to present this information was available for any and all chapters.

Danny Poet, President of the Caroline Chapter, noted that Ed Unger, a member of MOS/Caroline Chapter - who was very much involved with MOS at the state level during the 1960's – 70's had recently passed away. Many had expressed an interest that a Memorial be developed at Irish Grove to remember the contributions/accomplishments that Ed made to MOS and wildlife conservation in Maryland. Ideas included a park bench on a designated trail at Irish Grove, a scholarship, a parchment listing his contributions, or even a "living memorial" such as a garden or trail be dedicated to his memory. In general the Board felt that such a memorial should be of "low maintenance" at Irish Grove. Norm noted that MOS had already received $1000 in donations for this project, and he had information on purchasing a concrete bench to include an inscription on it.

A proposal was brought forth that a memorial be established at Irish Grove for Ed Unger, and that the Sanctuary Committee should make the final determination on the extend and type of memorial to placed at the site.

A Motion was made to approve the memorial for Ed Unger at Irish Grove. This was SECONDED, and APPROVED by the Board.

Linda Friedland announced that Luther Goldman of the Montgomery Chapter had a wildlife photography exhibit and for those who would like to attend, to contact her.

Norm announced that the 1999 Membership List was available for Chapters that would like a copy. Contact Larry Fry for a copy. Norm also had lists for individual chapters on members that had dropped out of MOS. He felt that the Chapters needed to review this information and see if what was on these lists was accurate and complete. This is something that needs to be addressed at further meetings on how to retain and promote membership within MOS.

A **MOTION** was made at approximately 12 P.M. to adjourn the meeting. The motion was **SECONDED and APPROVED.**

MOS Activities Calendar
November 1999 through January 2000

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Saturdays at Hart-Miller Island. Meet 7 a.m. sharp. Strenuous carry-your-'scope hike, 7 miles on shifting sand and gravel under open sky with no shelter or shade; one rest stop (bathrooms) half way around the trek. Carry drinks, lunch, sun screen and insect repellant. For shorebirds, possible rare gulls. Merlin and Peregrine Falcons in fall; Snow Buntings in winter. Maryland's best shorebird hotspot by far. For reservations, call Gene Scarpulla, 821-0575.

Tuesday, November 2

MEETING. Baltimore. "Chesapeake Bay Waterfowl: Status and Trends" by Doug Forsell. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. The Mansion is located off Greenspring Avenue one block south of Northern Parkway (accessible from I-83 Northern Parkway exit south of the Beltway) in Baltimore.

Wednesday, November 3

MEETING. Carroll. "Bird Feeding: Facts & Fallacies" by Dr. Al Geiss. 7:30 p.m. at Carroll Community College in Westminster, MD. For more information, contact Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109.

Thursday, November 4

MEETING. Frederick. "The MOS: A Vital and Relevant Organization." Norm Saunders, President of MOS, will educate us on the workings of MOS at a state wide level. You will be surprised at all we do. 7:30 p.m. at Frederick High School in the Music Room.

Friday, November 5

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "All About Spiders" by Dawn Southard. 8:00 p.m. at the DNR Conference Room, Tawes Building, corner of Taylor Avenue and Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis.

MEETING. Harford. Chan Robbins will be the speaker. Meet at 6:15 p.m. at Churchville Presbyterian Church, MD 22 & MD 136. For further information, call 410-692-9305.

Saturday, November 6

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Piney Run Park. Walk the hilly trails around the lake edges for waterfowl and winter land birds. Telescopes recommended. Meet 8:00 a.m. at entrance gate. For further information, contact the leader, Burton Alexander, at 410-381-5574.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Clean-up Day at Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary. There will be a good job for us to complete and also some time for birding. Bring heavy gloves and binoculars and meet at the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.. Leaders David Smith (410-549-7082) & Bob Becraft , sanctuary chair.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Harford Waterfowl Tour. Morning trip will visit several locations along eastern border of county for possible Northern Shoveler, Oldsquaw, and scoters. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Rod'n'Gun Club on APG's Edgewood Area, south end of MD 24. For further information, contact the leader, Dave Webb, at 410-939-3537.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Sandy Point State Park. Wintering waterfowl, other waterbirds, some landbirds. 2/3 day. Meet just beyond park tollbooth at 9 a.m. (no entrance fee this time of year). For further information, contact the leader, Don Messersmith, at 301-593-5942.

Sunday, November 7

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Looking for sparrows at Hashawa off John Owings Road, Westminster. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Bear Branch Nature Center. For more information, contact Amy Hoffman at 410-549-3598.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Avalon Sea Watch. Join Scott and Kelly Powers for a morning of watching migrant ducks and seabirds along the New Jersey coast. Meet at Cecil Community College at 5:30 am. For more information call 410-658-2368.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Eden Mill & Kilgore Falls. Morning hike follows scenic Falling Branch from Deer Creek to the state's second highest waterfall. Meet at 7:15 a.m. at Eden Mill, Eden Mill Road just west of Fawn Grove Road. For further information, contact the leader, Deborah Bowers, at 410-692-9741.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Sunday's Centennial Park walk. Walk the paved path around Centennial park for migrating waterfowl and other species.. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the west end lot. The leader is Ralph Cullison. For further information, call 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Myrtle Grove WMA and Vicinity. Winter residents. All day. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Oxon Hill Children's Farm or 8:30 a.m. at Myrtle Grove. Trip will stop at fast-food place for lunch. For reservations and additional information, contact the leader, Frank Witebsky, at 301-871-7990.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk to Blackwater NWR led by Steve Ford. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton.

Tuesday, November 9

MEETING. Kent. Rachel Soles of the Tri-State Bird Rescue will present a program on Tri-State's rehabilitation efforts. 7:30 p.m. at the Kent County Library, Chestertown. For more information, contact Gail Regester at 410-778-9367.

Thursday, November 11

MEETING. Howard. "Spring in Ontario: Birds of Algonquin Park, Point Pelee, Long Point and Rondeau," by Ralph Geuder. Programs held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Dr., Columbia. Hospitality session and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information contact Mike Kerwin at 410-461-2408.

MEETING. Montgomery. "Timeless Patterns: The Seasons at Churchill" by author, photographer Robert E. Mumford, Jr. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD. For further information, contact Linda Friedland at 301-983-2136 or by email at linnet@erols.com.

MEETING. Talbot. "John and William Bartram, Pioneer Scientists" by Paul Spitzer. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Crestar Bank basement meeting room , Goldsboro and Harrison Streets in Easton.

Saturday, November 13

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Sandy Point State Park for a variety of fall and wintering birds. Half day. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Busch's Chesapeake Inn restaurant located off Rt. 50 on Busch's Frontage Road. For further information, contact the leader, Hal Wierenga, at 410-647-7439.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park Join Jim Meyers (410-435-2008) with the Wild Bird Center people in a walk through the diverse habitats of the Park. Expect to find a variety of resident and migrant birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the "Willow Grove Farm" Information Kiosk in the park off Cromwell Bridge Road 1.5 miles north of I-695 Beltway exit 29A. For further information, contact Ray at the Wild Bird Center at 410-666-4550.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Looking for waterfowl and whatever else we might see at Piney Run Park. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park's gate on Martz Road, Sykesville, MD. For more information, contact trip leader Jerry Tarbell at 410-857-1109.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Owl Prowl. Evening outing near Elk Neck State Park in Cecil County for possible screech, Barred and saw-whet owls. Meet at 5:30 p.m. at the Havre de Grace Plaza Acme, US 40 and Lewis Lane. For further information, contact the coordinator, Carol Nemeth, at 410-939-1485.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Prime Hook NWR. The leader is Terry Allen. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton.

FIELD TRIP Washington - Lilypons, always an interesting experience. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Rt. 66 Park & Ride. Contact Betty Wolfe at 301-824-5391 for more information.

Sunday, November 14

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Eastern Neck. All-day trip to NWR in Kent County productive for grebes, swans, diving ducks, and winter sparrows. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the I-95 & MD 155 commuter lot (Exit 89). For further information, contact the leaders, Jean and Larry Fry, at 410-452-8539.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Sunday's Centennial Park walk. Walk the paved path around Centennial park for migrating waterfowl and other species.. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the west end lot. The leader is Maud Banks. For further information, call 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk to Terrapin Park, Kent Island, led by Danny Poet. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton.

Tuesday, November 16

MEETING Washington - Members' Night. 7:30 p.m. at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center. Contact Janet Shields at 301-416-7109 for further information.

Wednesday, November 17

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Swan Harbor Farms. Excellent birding area on the Oakington Peninsula of eastern Harford County. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Roye-Williams Elementary School, Oakington Road just south of Old Post Road (MD 132). For further information, contact the leader, Joe Vangrin, at 410-838-1921.

Thursday, November 18

MEETING. Caroline. "Birds of Trinidad and Tobago" by Dr. Robert Trever. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Caroline County Public Library, Denton Meeting Room, 100 Market Street, Denton, MD.

Saturday, November 20

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Blackwater NWR. All-day trip to see ducks, thousands of Canada and Snow Geese, and possible Bald Eagle or Brown-headed Nuthatch. Meet at the refuge Visitors Center. Birding mostly from cars, one short level walk. Telescopes useful. Meet 9:30 a.m. at visitor center. For further information, contact the leader, Taylor McLean, at 410-377-7622.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Kent County Birding, Horsehead, Eastern Neck NWR and Remington Farms for waterfowl and late migrants. Cinnamon Teal and Eurasian Widgeon are possible. Pack a lunch and be prepared for a full day. Meet at Urbana Park and Ride at 6:00 a.m. For further information, contact Helen Horrocks at 301-831-6315.

FIELD TRIP. Tri-County. Vessey's Orchard for Bald Eagles, plus other Somerset County locations. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Asbury Methodist Church in the east parking lot. For further information contact the leader Charles Vaughn, at 410-742-7221.

Sunday, November 21

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Eastern Neck NWR, Kent County. Many wintering waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Busch's Chesapeake Inn restaurant located off Rt. 50 on Busch's Frontage Road. For further information, contact the leaders, Bobbi Reichwein at 410-451-2671 or Mary O'Leary at 410-798-6905.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Loch Raven Reservoir. Expansive pine forests with adjacent lake attract passerines and waterfowl alike. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Youths Benefit Elementary School in Fallston, on MD 152, 3 miles northwest of US 1. For more information contact the leader, Barbara Meserve, at 410-877-7331.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Sunday's Centennial Park walk. Walk the paved path around Centennial park for migrating waterfowl and other species.. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the west end lot. The leader is Mike Kerwin. For further information, call 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Lilypons - New Design Road. Wintering field birds, targeting Fox and Tree sparrows and possible Loggerhead Shrike. Will include stop at Black Hill Reservoir, if conditions look good for waterbirds. 1/2 day. For reservations and further information, contact the leader, Gail MacKiernan, at 301-989-1828.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk to Horsehead Wetland Center led by Bernie Burns. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton.

Monday, November 22

MEETING. Tri-County. "Birds of Assateague" presented by Rachelle Daigneault. Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Assateague National Seashore Headquarters building. For further information contact Allen Deward, at 410-352-5590.

Tuesday, November 23

MEETING. Cecil. Ducks Unlimited will speak about their habitat conservation practices. 7:30 p.m. at Elkton library, large meeting room. For more information, contact Leslie Fisher at 410-658-2427.

Saturday, November 27

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Blackwater NWR, Dorchester County. Snow Geese and swans. Meet 1:00 p.m. in the parking lot of Busch's Chesapeake Inn restaurant located off Rt. 50 on Busch's Frontage Road. For further information, contact the leader, Barbara Ricciardi, at 301-464-1962.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park Join Jim Meyers (410-435-2008) with the Wild Bird Center people in a walk through the diverse habitats of the Park. Expect to find a variety of resident and migrant birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the "Willow Grove Farm" Information Kiosk in the park off Cromwell Bridge Road 1.5 miles north of I-695 Beltway exit 29A. For further information, contact Ray at the Wild Bird Center at 410-666-4550.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Conowingo Dam. Morning trip to acclaimed site along Susquehanna River for possible Golden Eagle, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Black-crowned Night-Heron. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the base of the dam at Fisherman's Park, east end of Shures Landing Road. For further information, contact the leader, John Wortman, at 410-939-3146.

Sunday, November 28

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Sunday's Centennial Park walk. Walk the paved path around Centennial park for migrating waterfowl and other species.. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the west end lot. The leader is TBA. For further information, call 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Point Lookout State Park. Excellent site for wintering waterfowl with possibility of surprises. We'll also visit some other locations along the lower Patuxent River. Easy 2-hour drive from DC area. 2/3 day. Limited to 12 people. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Mike Bowen, at 301-530-5764.

Wednesday, December 1

MEETING. Carroll. The MD/DC Records Committee will present a program designed to inform MOS members of the goals & purpose of the Records Committee. 7:30 p.m. at Carroll Community College, Westminster, MD. For more information, contact Laura Tarbell.

Thursday, December 2

CHRISTMAS DINNER AND MEETING. Frederick. "Hart-Miller Island: A Brief History through Time, 1600-2000" by Gene Scarpulla.. Gene has been birding Hart Miller for several years and keeping a very accurate record of bird population. Reservations to President or Treasurer before 11/26/99. 7:30 p.m. at Frederick High School in the Music Room.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Backroads of Montgomery County. Explore little known back roads of our county in search of wintering birds of hedge, field, and copse. A two-car caravan will stay in touch via CB radios. 1/2 day. Lunch at up-county restaurant. For details and reservations, contact the leader, Rich Bray, at 301-652-0387.

Friday, December 3

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Birds and Culture of Peru" by Gary VanVelsir. 8:00 p.m. at the DNR Conference Room, Tawes Building, corner of Taylor Avenue and Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis.

Saturday, December 4

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Southern Maryland. All-day trip to Point Lookout and other locations. Scoters, Oldsquaw, Great Cormorants, Bald Eagles, Brown-headed Nuthatches, and Gannets possible. Birding near cars with minimal walking. Telescopes useful. Bring Lunch. Trip may not go if weather judged unfavorable. For further information, contact the leader, Steve Sanford, at 410-922-5103.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Conowingo Eagle Watch. Join the Cecil bird club for a morning of searching for Bald Eagles, waterfowl and gulls. Good winter song birds along the river too! Meet at the Fisherman's Parking lot at 8:00 am. For more information call 410-658-2368.

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. Waterfowl In Frederick Co. What is lingering or arriving early in the ponds of Frederick Co. We should find all 22 duck species that frequent our home county! Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Culler Lake Boathouse (2nd Street just west of College Terrace). For further information, contact Wilbur Hershberger at 301-898-9088.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Broad Creek Scout Camp. Potential avian visitors include Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, and the elusive Red Crossbill. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Dublin Market, corner of MD Rts. 136 and 440. For further information contact the coordinator Russ Kovach at 410-679-0535.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Black Hill Regional Park. For beginners in particular; all others welcome too. We'll concentrate on identifying wintering water birds at excellent local lake and look at landbirds too. 1/2 day. For reservations and further information, contact the leader, Sally Ann Waldschmidt, at 301-460-5841.

Sunday, December 5

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC. Easier to reach and more attractive than you may think! Wintering ducks, raptors, possibly some shorebirds. 1/2 day. Meet at 8 a.m. at the main parking lot Follow signs from Kenilworth Avenue southbound shortly after Rte. 50. No entrance fee. For further information and directions, contact the leader, Bill Dobbins, at 202-338-1321.

Tuesday, December 7

MEETING. Baltimore. Show-n-Tell Night with members and friends of the Baltimore Bird Club. Bring your beautiful, interesting or unusual slides of local or international birds. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. The Mansion is located off Greenspring Avenue one block south of Northern Parkway (accessible from I-83 Northern Parkway exit south of the Beltway) in Baltimore.

Thursday, December 9

MEETING. Howard. "The Birds of Namibia in Southwestern Africa," by Hank Kaestner. Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Dr., Columbia. Hospitality session and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information contact Mike Kerwin at 410-671-2408.

MEETING. Montgomery. "Wings of Silence: The Owls of Australia" with a video tape by chapter member Bill Young. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD. For further information, contact Linda Friedland at 301-983-2136 or by email at linnet@erols.com.

Saturday, December 11

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park Join Jim Meyers (410-435-2008) with the Wild Bird Center people in a walk through the diverse habitats of the Park. Expect to find a variety of resident and migrant birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the "Willow Grove Farm" Information Kiosk in the park off Cromwell Bridge Road 1.5 miles north of I-695 Beltway exit 29A. For further information, contact Ray at the Wild Bird Center at 410-666-4550.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Birding at Conowingo Dam looking for Bald Eagles & wintering gulls. Bring a lunch if you're staying for the day. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Owings Mills Metro Lot off Rt. 795 (south lot near Painters Mill Rd). For more information, contact trip leader Bob Ringler at 410-549-6031.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Jersey Shore. All day excursion to the New Jersey coast for ducks and Northern Gannet. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the Rt. 155/I-95 (exit 89) Park & Ride. For further information contact the coordinator Russ Kovach at 410-679-0535.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. National Arboretum, DC. Another large, attractive, birdy location right in the middle of the big city! We'll search for wintering passerines in the numerous trees, shrubs, and fields. Our leader compiled the official Arboretum checklist and knows the place well. 1/2 day. Start time will be 8.30 a.m. at the Visitors Center near the R St. gate. Car-pooling encouraged. No fee for entry. Mike Bowen will co-lead. For reservations and driving instructions, contact the leader, Frank Daspit, at 202-526-0157.

Sunday, December 12

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Greenbury Point, Anne Arundel County. Local hotspot for wintering birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Parole Park & Ride lot located off Harry Truman Parkway. For further information, contact the leader, Al Haury at 410-923-0881.

Tuesday, December 14

MEETING. Kent. "Birdfeeding: Facts and Fallacies" by Dr. Al Geis, a well-known expert in this field. 7:30 p.m. at the Kent County Library, Chestertown. For more information, contact Gail Regester at 410-778-9367.

Friday-Monday, December 31-January 3

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. What better way to ring in the new year! Come spend all or part of the long holiday weekend birding the Eastern Shore. Be sure to pack warm clothing as we're aiming to do some birding at the Chesapeake Bay Tunnel where the winds are strong this time of year. Meet 9:00 a.m. at the visitor's center at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge. Limited accommodations. For more information, contact Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109.

Thursday, January 6

MEETING. Frederick. Sights & Sounds of Ferd's Bog near Old Forge NY. Enjoy Wilbur Hershberger's photography and recordings. 7:30 p.m. at Frederick High School in the Music Room.

Friday, January 7

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "Northeastern Australia" by Greg Kerns. 8:00 p.m. at the DNR Conference Room, Tawes Building, corner of Taylor Avenue and Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis.

Saturday, January 8

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Lakes of Howard County for winter waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Severna Park Park & Ride lot located on the corner of Jones Station Road and Ritchie Highway. For further information, contact the leader, Larry Zoller, at 410-647-9354.

HOLIDAY PARTY. Carroll. Our annual party is here again & we always have a good time at the Yingling residence! 8:00 p.m. til... For more information, contact Sue Yingling at 410-876-8211.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Ninth Annual Feeder Tour. Participation is limited to 15 birders, so please be sure to contact coordinator Lorna Wortman at 410-939-3146 to get meeting times and locations. In the case of inclement weather, this trip will be postponed to Saturday, January 15.

Sunday, January 9

MEETING. Baltimore. Covered Dish Supper at 5:30 p.m.. "Bird Watching Off the Beaten Track - New Britain, Reunion and More" with world traveling McCormick Spice Company purchase agent and birder Hank Kaestner. For your dish assignment, register by Thursday, Jan 6 with Carolyn Webb at 410-486-1217.

FIELD TRIP. Kent. Feeder watch at Pat Wilson's home. Meet at the Dollar General Store parking lot at the intersection of Rt. 213 and Spring Avenue, Chestertown at 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, January 13

MEETING. Howard. "Landbird Survey at Aberdeen Proving Ground," by Jim McCann, Maryland DNR. Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Dr., Columbia. Hospitality session and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information contact Mike Kerwin at 410-461-2408.

MEETING. Montgomery. "Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere With Migratory Birds," based on his new book by author, hawk-bander Scott Weidensaul. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD. For further information, contact Linda Friedland at 301-983-2136 or by email at linnet@erols.com.

Saturday, January 15

FIELD TRIP Washington - A hunt for winter birds. Last year we found Snow Buntings, Horned Larks and Lapland Longspur. Time and place to be determined. Call Dave Weesner at 301-432-7718 for information.

Sunday, January 16

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Conowingo Dam. Thousands of gulls, possibly some rarities, as well as waterfowl, raptors and eagles. Wear warm clothing and boots. Telescopes useful. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the White Marsh Mall at light pole 16 on NE side of Sears. For further information, contact the leader, Gene Scarpulla, at 410-821-0575.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Pot Luck Birding Adventure. Join leaders Dave Webb and Matt Haffner on a "go where the birds are" fieldtrip. Location will be announced by the leaders close to the trip date, and the quarry will be anything with feathers. For further information please call Dave at 410-939-3537.

Sunday, January 23

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Annapolis Neck & Thomas Point, A. A. County. Flocks of waterfowl and socializing over soup. Meet at 12:00 noon at the Bay Ridge Shop. For further information, contact the leaders, John & Helen Ford at 410-267-8417.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Conowingo Gull Watch. This mostly stationary trip could provide a chance to see some of Maryland's rarer gulls, including Iceland, Glaucous, and Lesser Black-backed Gull. Meet at the base of the dam at 8:00 a.m. For further information, contact the coordinator Dave Powell at 410-452-5806.

Monday, January 24

MEETING. Tri-County. "Helping Your Records Committee Document Rarities" presented by Paul O'Brien. Meet 7:00 p.m. at the Asbury Methodist Church in the Fox Room. For further information contact Allen Deward, at 410-352-5590.

Tuesday, January 25

MEETING Washington - Robert McCutcheon will talk about his life-long interest in butterflies. 7:30 p.m. at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center. For further information, call Janet Shields at 301-416-7109.

Saturday, January 29

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Conowingo Dam, Harford County. A variety of gulls and other birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Severna Park Park & Ride lot located in the NW corner at the intersection of Jones Station Road and Ritchie Highway. For further information, contact the leader, Peter Hanan at 410-721-2658.

FIELD TRIP. Tri-County. Coastal Birding: Cape Henlopen to Ocean City. Meet 7:30 a.m. at the Asbury Methodist Church in the east parking lot. For further information contact the leader, Sam Dyke, at 410-742-5497

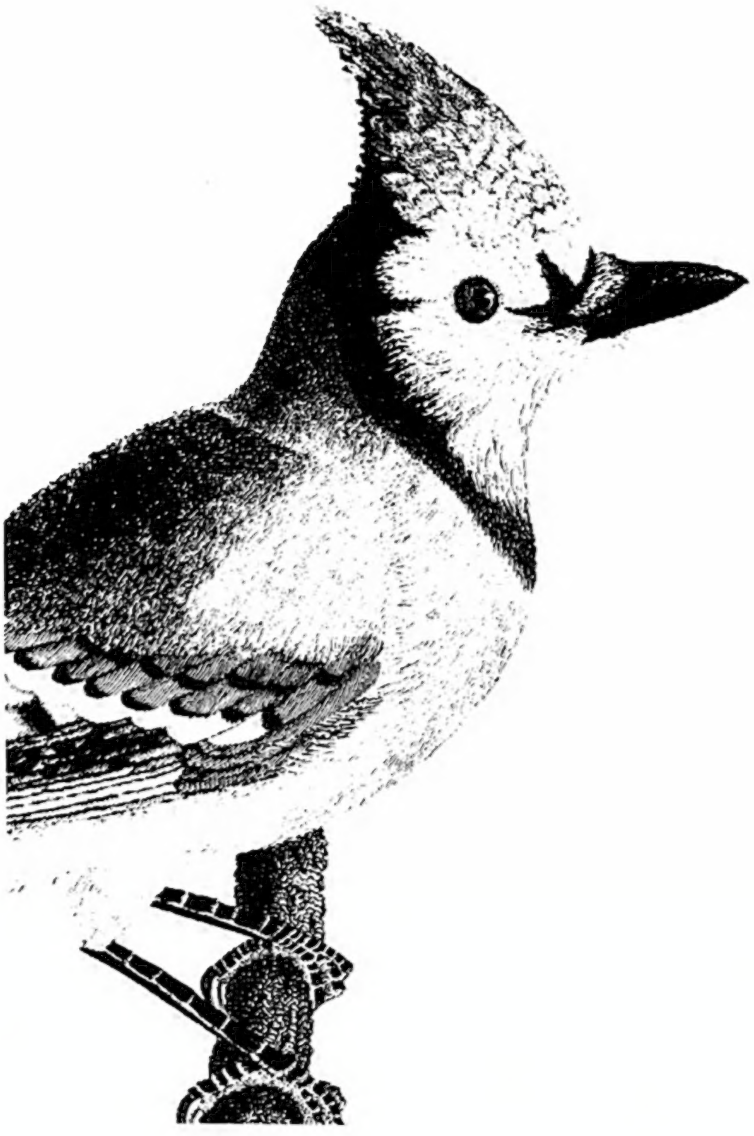
Harford Chapter Celebrates 50 Years

by Jean Fry

On Friday, November 5, the Harford Bird Club will celebrate its 50 years of existence with a dinner at the Churchville Presbyterian Church at 6:15 PM. Invitations have been sent to presidents of other chapters in the state, past presidents, and former members. Long time members will be recognized. The guest speaker will be Chandler Robbins. A display of photos and articles will chronicle the club's history. Dr. Donald Messersmith will also send a display which illustrates Orville Crowder's role in the formation of MOS, the Harford Bird Club, and Crowder's connection to Harford County.

The first meeting of the club occurred on October 25, 1949 in the old Bel Air library on Main Street. That meeting grew out of a group of nature lovers who had been meeting weekly in the spring and summer of 1949. Orville Crowder was a frequent speaker and was the president of the Maryland Ornithological Society which had been formed in 1945. It soon became evident to him that there was a nucleus within this group which could become another chapter of MOS. He had surprised guests at a garden club in September by stating that "225 species of birds can be found in Harford County." Forty-five persons attended the first meeting of the bird club, and William J. Kelly was elected the first president. The speaker was W. Byrant Tyrell, a Washington bird photographer, whose work had appeared in the Saturday Evening Post and Audubon magazine.

Since its beginning the club has had 20 presidents. One, Barclay Tucker, also served as state MOS president. In 1957 the club started having dinner meetings at the Churchville Presbyterian Church, a practice which continues three times a year to this day. A fall picnic and a summer social have been added to the activities. The club has a very active field trip calendar with events scheduled for nearly every weekend. There have been over two hundred members since 1989. A checklist for the county was developed in 1993 and a brochure on birdwatching in the county is in the making.



Stuff you don't want to miss in this issue:

- 1999 Christmas Count Schedule
- American Bird Conservancy doings
- June Board Meeting Minutes
- Our Regular Columnists, in All Their Glory
- ...and much, much more ! ! !

The copy deadline for the Jan/Feb issue of the Yellowthroat is November 25 for chapter activities and December 1 for all other submissions.

Send calendar entries for January to March to:

Les Eastman
4034 Wilkinson Rd.
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
W: 410-671-3490
H: 410-734-6969

Please send all other submissions to the editor:

Norman C. Saunders
1261 Cavendish Drive
Colesville, MD 20905
H: 301-989-9035
W: 202-606-5701

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